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X NATIONAL 4-H CLUB CAMP

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4-H Club Boys and Girls Introduced to "Serendipity" at National 4-H Camp:

(For Release Saturday, June 18, A.M.)

The two hundred rural boys and girls attending National 4-H Club Camp here learned a new word this morning, "serendipity."

It means, according to Dr. George W. Irving, Jr., Assistant Chief, Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry, U. S. Department of Agriculture, "Finding something valuable when you are not actually looking for it."

"It can be applied, for instance, to the discovery of a better means for making vegetable glue, when you were trying to make a better meringue for pies, which actually occurred at our Northern Regional Research Laboratory," Dr. Irving said in his talk to the boys and girls on "How Science Contributes to Better Living."

In everyday life, Dr. Irving continued, "'serendipity' might refer to your finding in a bottom drawer, while looking for your diploma, the pair of binoculars you had long since given up for lost.

"Such serendipitous discoveries in science are, however, few and far between, even though the newspapers seem to become considerably more excited about them than they do over those arrived at by the more methodical approach. It is worth remembering also that, once the serendipitous discovery has been made, the usual scientific procedures must be followed in taking advantage of it. Besides, in many cases only an alert and well-informed

scientist is capable of recognizing the value of a serendipitous discovery when he sees one.

"What the specific problems for the scientist of the future will be, no one can say for sure; but of this much we are confident: the scientist, using the scientific method, will continue to strive both as a scientist and as a citizen for the improvement of man and the world about him. What the scientist as a scientist strives for is that Utopia where we will no longer need drugs for healing the sick, because we will have obtained sufficient knowledge to prevent man from becoming sick. What the scientist as a citizen strives for is the same Utopia where we will no longer need to devise means for doctoring the ills of our social world, because we will have determined the basic causes and perhaps even permanent cures for our social unrest."

After Dr. Irving's talk the 4-H'ers held round-table discussions on the place of science in bringing about better living, especially better living on the farm and in the rural home.

This afternoon and tonight they will tour Washington, seeing the embassies on Massachusetts Avenue, the U. S. Naval Observatory, the Cathedral of St. Peter and St. Paul, the Arts and Industries Building of the Smithsonian Institution, the Library of Congress, and the Lincoln Memorial. Tomorrow morning they will attend a chapel service at the U. S. Naval Academy, Annapolis. In the afternoon they will place a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery, after which they will visit the Lee Mansion there. They will also visit Christ Church, Alexandria, Washington National Airport, and the National Gallery of Art.